

Columbus Public Health
STANDARDS RELATIVE TO ANIMALS

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Within the jurisdiction of the City of Columbus Board of Health, a person may apply for a permit for the keeping of certain animals as specified in Columbus City Health Code (CCHC) 221.05. The standards are *animal-type* specific and are set high to ensure a quality environment.

COLUMBUS CITY HEALTH CODE

221.05 STANDARDS RELATIVE TO ANIMALS AND FOWL.

(a) No person shall keep any equine, cow, sheep, goat, pig, llama or other large animal in any stable, barn or structure unless that stable, barn or other structure shall have a floor of impervious material and shall be so drained that all fluid excrement or refuse liquid shall be conducted into a City sanitary sewer. All manure and refuse shall be placed in tightly covered containers and removed from the premises before the manure and other refuse becomes offensive. The structure, animals and premises shall be kept in sanitary condition so that they shall not become offensive and so that they will not harbor animal or insect pests.

1) Exemption shall be made for any land annexed into the City of Columbus which is zoned agriculture and/or currently has livestock and/or domestic fowl at the time of annexation.

2) This exemption shall be in force as long as this land is zoned and/or used for agricultural purposes and poses no environmental or health hazards. (Amended 3/1/92, Resolution 92-5)

(b) No person shall keep, store, maintain, shelter or care of, at any time, animals of the hog or goat kind, equine, cow, alligator, crocodile, caiman, sheep, goat, llama, captive wild fowl, and all domestic fowl in any pen or enclosure on any premise, lot or parcel of land in the City without written permission from the Health Commissioner. Anyone intending to keep such animals must first obtain a permit from the Health Commissioner. Each pen or enclosure for such animals shall have a floor of impervious material and be under cover. The Health Commissioner may grant permission on the above situations only after it is determined that the keeping of such animals:

(1) creates no adverse environmental or health effects;

(2) is in compliance with all other sections of this chapter; and

(3) in the judgment of the Health Commissioner, after consultation with the staff of the Health Department and with the surrounding occupants of the place of keeping such animals, and considering the nature of the community (i.e., residential or commercial single or multiple dwellings, etc.), is reasonably inoffensive. The Health Commissioner may revoke such permission at any time for violation of this chapter or any other just cause. (Amended 3/1/92, Resolution 92-5)

The following criteria are evaluated prior to a permit being issued:

- Public Safety,
- Public Health,
- Animal Confinement,
- Animal Cruelty,
- Animal Welfare,
- Owner Keeper Harboring Knowledge and Ability,
- Neighborhood Opinion,
- Liability Insurance

The progression of the permit process is:

- 1a,b,c. Initial Paperwork
 - a. Identification of animal(s), owner, address
 - b. History search of owner and address
 - c. Site map and neighborhood survey
- 2a,b. On-site and neighborhood evaluations
 - a. On site inspection(s)
 - b. Survey responses
- 3a,b,c. Conditional criteria review
Permit *issued* OR *denied* (animals removed)

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- a. Depending on the type of permit (i.e. individual, pet store, etc.), the number and type of animals may be limited.
- b. A description, sketch and/or plan for the intended caging must be submitted. The caging must be inoffensive, secure, and have impervious flooring.
- c. A written schedule outlining the intended daily and weekly disinfection and cleaning must be submitted plus annually thereafter.
- d. A written report outlining a general knowledge of the proper handling and care for the species of animal must be submitted.
- e. The animal(s) are not to enter other people's property. Licensed veterinary services for treatment and care of said animals are exempted.
- f. The animal(s) must be examined for general health, parasites and absence of zoonotic disease symptoms by a licensed practicing veterinarian in the State of Ohio within 14 days of arrival, plus annually thereafter. A copy of all such examinations must be submitted.
- g. All wastes must be properly cleaned and disposed of. *NOTE:* Composting of animal waste is not permitted within the City of Columbus.
- h. Steps must be taken to prevent feed from being scattered upon the ground such that it might attract vermin and create other environmental problems.
- i. Public safety, public health, animal confinement, animal cruelty, and animal welfare standards must be maintained and in compliance with Columbus City Code and Columbus City Health Code.
- j. A permit is valid for 1 year and requires annual re-inspection for renewal. If proposed new legislation is passed, a fee may become effective in the future.
- k. Public safety and/or public health complaints concerning the animals that require prosecution to resolve, or any other just cause, will result in review and possible revocation of the permit.
- l. The property owner must be on record in favor of the keeping of such animal(s) at the stated address.

FOWL:

1. The floor of the coop where the birds will be running during the day as well as roosting or sleeping at night must have an impervious floor.
2. To allow Gallinaceous birds to "dust bathe" and search for food, an impervious ground covering such as tile, vinyl flooring, livestock mats, treated wood, etc. can be used within the pen, but over the earthen substrate, such that dirt or bedding can then be added on top of the covering.
3. Short term (one hour) "free roaming", up to daily, outside the pen but within a fenced yard, will be taken into consideration if the following conditions are met:
 - There are no valid objections received from any directly adjacent properties.
 - An owner is present with the birds while they are out of their pen.
 - The birds can be easily and quietly returned to their pen upon demand.
 - Flight when possible, even if to a limited degree, is restricted (wings clipped and/or overhead fencing/barrier, is in place, etc.).
 - The perimeter of the "free roaming" must not reasonably allow waste to be directly deposited upon or carried into adjoining properties via water, wind currents, fomites, etc.
 - Wastes must be removed and not be allowed to accumulate on the grounds regardless of location.

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